

with grass and roots of floating vegetation, fastened to the reed-stems by entwined grasses, roots and cobwebs here and there (Pl. 2, Fig. 2). The inner lining is made up of the delicate inflorescence of reed. The cup is about 5-8 cm. deep. Such a depth prevents the eggs from rolling out of the nest when the reeds are violently shaken by the wind during gales which are of frequent occurrence during the breeding season. The nest is on the whole similar to that described by George (1962) in Kerala.

The clutch-size is three to four (Pl. 2, Fig. 2), based on observation of five nests with complete clutches of eggs (3 in three nests and 4 in two). Two more nests were found with only single, freshly laid eggs.

The texture and coloration of the eggs agree with the description given by Baker (op. cit., pp. 389-390) and George (loc. cit.). Thirteen eggs measure : average 20.2×15.1 mm.; maxima 21.3×15.3 and 20.9×15.8 mm.; minima 18.5×15 and 19.8×14.8 mm.

Two nestlings taken on 13 September 1964, were about three or four days old (Pl. 2, Fig. 3). They had down absent, mouth orange, with a pair of somewhat diamond-shaped, glossy, purplish blue directive spots situated on two sides of the base of the tongue; gape yellow, maxilla fleshy horny, mandible fleshy, legs and feet plumbeous, claws horny.

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INDIA,
INDIAN MUSEUM,
CALCUTTA 13,
January 15, 1971.

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13. SOME INTERESTING BIRD RECORDS FROM POINT CALIMERE

The Point Calimere Sanctuary, situated on a low forest-covered promontory on the Coromandel Coast about 300 miles south of Madras city and separated by a bare 30 miles of sea from Ceylon, is an ideal area for the study of birds migrating through India to Ceylon. The Society's bird ringing station maintained at the Sanctuary since June

1969 has proved extremely valuable for obtaining data on the movements of Passerine and non-Passerine migrants. Information on some of the species which have not hitherto been recorded from the area or have been considered absent during summer or rare in Tamil Nadu, is given below :

***Limnodromus semipalmatus* (Blyth)**

Two Snipe-billed Godwit ringed on 13th October 1970, gave the following measurements : Wing 165, 170; Bill (from skull) 79, 81; Tarsus 50, 49. There are no records of this bird from south India after Jerdon obtained a specimen from Madras Market in 1848. It is known as an uncommon straggler in eastern India, south to Chilka Lake, Orissa, where five specimens were ringed by our field team during January 1967.

***Chlidonias leucoptera* (Temminck)**

We have ringed 50 Whitewinged Black Tern at Calimere, most of them in December 1970. Kinnear & Whistler (1937) questioned the statement in the FAUNA that it is common on the east coast, and agreed with the assessment of Blanford (1898) that it has not been identified clearly west of Tipperah. The HANDBOOK (3 : 41) lists the details of its occurrence in India, and gives it as a rare winter visitor to east India and north Ceylon. Wait (1931) found them in fair numbers in the north-central provinces of Ceylon. In the absence of any published record from Tamil Nadu our specimens would suggest the likelihood of this species often being confused with *C. hybrida indica* (Stephens).

***Ceyx erithacus erithacus* (Linn.)**

Four specimens of the Three-toed Forest Kingfisher were ringed between 15th November and 28th December 1970. This is a bird of the moist deciduous and evergreen biotope of the Himalayas, Western Ghats and Ceylon and its occurrence at Point Calimere is intriguing. We cannot be certain whether the specimens were stray vagrants from Ceylon or on passage between Ceylon and their Indian range.

***Mirafra erythroptera erythroptera* (Blyth)**

Seven Redwinged Bush Lark were ringed at Calimere. Ripley (1961 : 261) queries the occurrence of this species in Tamil Nadu, but our birds confirm that it does occur, and is perhaps even not very uncommon.

***Zoothera wardii* (Blyth)**

Five birds of this species were netted and ringed during October 1969. The Pied Ground Thrush which breeds in the Himalayas has

previously been recorded at higher elevations on the Eastern Ghats having been obtained on 26th April at Sankrametta, Vizag Hills, apparently on the return migration from its winter quarters in Ceylon to its northern breeding grounds. Its capture at Calimere gives an indication of its migratory movement through the Peninsula. The other records given by Kinnear & Whistler (1932) are evidently also of birds on the northward migration.

Zoothera citrina citrina (Latham)

22 birds of this species were ringed during October/November 1969. This is another record of a passage migrant whose status was not clear as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned.

CAMP,
B.N.H.S. BIRD MIGRATION STUDY
PROJECT,
POINT CALIMERE,
TAMIL NADU,
March 22, 1971.

K. S. R. KRISHNA RAJU
P. B. SHEKAR

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14. NEW RECORDS OF BIRDS FROM THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

While working on a collection of birds from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands present in the Zoological Survey of India, I came across four examples of birds belonging to two forms, which according to standard ornithological literature (Baker 1924, 1929; Abdulali 1965, 1967; Ripley 1961; Ali & Ripley 1969) does not occur in this area. They are as follows:—

(1) *Porphyrio porphyrio poliocephalus* (Latham). Indian Purple Moorhen.

Three unsexed specimens bearing Z. S. I. Regd. Nos. 13680, 13681 and 13682, collected from Trinkut Island, Nicobars; donated by late E. H. May to the Asiatic Society of Bengal on 4 March, 1886.